StormReady Toolkit For Emergency Managers

This Toolkit provides guidance for emergency managers and local officials who are applying for the NWS StormReady program. It gives an overview of the StormReady program, describes the application process, provides a sample of the StormReady application, answers frequently asked questions and provides resources and contact points to help.

What's Is the StormReady Program?

StormReady is a nationwide program that helps communities better protect their citizens during severe weather—from tornadoes to tsunamis. The program encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations. StormReady provides emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations.

Nearly 90% of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related, leading to around 500 deaths per year and nearly \$14 billion in damage. To help Americans guard against the ravages of severe weather, the National Weather Service (NWS) has designed the StormReady program. StormReady arms America's communities with the communication and safety skills they need to save lives and property.

Many laws and regulations exist to help local emergency managers deal with hazardous material spills, search and rescue operations, medical crises, etc., but there are few guidelines dealing with the specifics of hazardous weather response. NWS recognized this need and designed StormReady—a program to help communities of all kinds: towns, cities, counties, Tribal Nations, Universities and industrial complexes implement procedures to reduce the potential for disastrous, weather-related, consequences. To be certified as StormReady, communities must meet guidelines established by the NWS in partnership with federal, state, and local emergency management professionals. The StormReady program is intended to:

- < Improve the timeliness and effectiveness of hazardous weather warnings for the public.
- Provide detailed and clear recommendations which will help local emergency managers establish and improve effective hazardous weather operations.
- < Help local emergency managers justify costs and purchases needed to support their hazardous weather-related program.
- < Reward local hazardous-weather mitigation programs that have achieved a desired performance level.
- < Provide a means of acquiring additional Community Rating System points assigned by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

- < Provide an "image incentive" to communities, which once certified, can identify themselves as StormReady.
- < Encourage the enhancement of hazardous weather preparedness programs in jurisdictions surrounding StormReady communities and counties.

StormReady is a voluntary program offered to provide guidance and incentive to officials interested in improving their hazardous weather operations. Implied or explicit references to "requirements" are made with regard to the voluntary participants in the StormReady program and should *not* be construed as being state or federal mandates.

How Will Becoming StormReady Benefit My Community?

When your major roads display StormReady signs, residents, business owners and visitors know you are committed to safety and preparedness. StormReady tells the community that their emergency management staff takes safety seriously.

What to We Have To Do?

To become StormReady a community or county must:

- < Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- < Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally
- < Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars
- < Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

How Do We Get Started?

First, fill out the written application in this kit and submit it to your local NWS office. You can find your local office online by county at http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm or in this toolkit by area.

Applicants with jurisdiction over a community and unincorporated areas of the surrounding county only need to submit one application. StormReady staff will use the combined populations to determine the right category.

While much of the application is a basic list of technology, you will need to provide a brief narrative describing preparedness and planning activities to help staff members assess programs such as your hazardous weather plan, emergency exercises and public safety programs.

Once your application is reviewed by StormReady Review Board, a team will arrange for a visit to your community to formally discuss the application.

How Long Will it Take

There is no set time frame for becoming StormReady. Once you have submitted your application, the local board will review it, arrange a visit, notify you of any deficiencies or approve your office and recommend that your community be recognized. The process can take anywhere from a few weeks to several months.

How Will the Public Know My Community is StormReady?

Once your community is officially recognized, you will receive:

- < A formal notification letter from your local NWS Office Director
- < Two StormReady signs suitable for display along roadways
- < Authorization to use the StormReady logo in media releases and other materials
- < Instructions for acquiring additional roadway signs
- < Information concerning the notification of the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) for possible adjustment to insurance rates.
- < Listing on the National StormReady Website and on national and state maps showing official StormReady sites: http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/communities.htm

How Long Does the Recognition Last?

Recognition lasts for three years from the date of the formal announcement. After three years, you are strongly encouraged to renew your status in the program. Renewal ensures you are maintaining the programs requirements.

What Does the Program Cost?

There is no cost to apply to the StormReady Program. You may need to upgrade your emergency preparedness operation to meet StormReady criteria. Established Emergency Management programs may incur little or no additional expense.

How to Contact Your Local NWS Office

The best way to find your local NWS office is to go to:

http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm

The Website provides maps showing which NWS office covers your county. The list below shows offices by state, however, your county may be covered by an office in an adjoining state. The Website offers the clearest information on which office can best serve you.

Alabama:	Birmingham (205) 664-3010	Mobile (334) 633-6443	Huntsville (256) 961-7533	See also: Tallahassee, FL
Alaska:	Anchorage (907) 266-5117	Fairbanks (907) 458-3712	Juneau (907) 790-6803	

Arkansas:	Little Rock	See also: Tulsa, OK; Memphis, TN, Shreveport, LA; Jackson, MS
	(501) 834-9102	

Arizona:	Phoenix	Flagstaff	Tucson	See also:
	(602) 275-7417	(520) 556-9161	(520) 670-5156	Las Vegas, NV

American Samoa,	Honolulu	
Pago Pago, U.S Pacific Islands	(808) 973-5275	

California:	Eureka	Sacramento	San Francisco	Hanford
	(707) 443-6484	(916) 979-3041	(831) 656-1725	(559) 584-0581

Los Angeles	San Diego	See also: Phoenix, AZ; Medford, OR;
(805) 988-6610	(858) 675-8706	Reno and Las Vegas, NV;

Colorado:	Denver/Boulder	Grand Junction	Pueblo	See also:
	(303) 494-3210	(970) 243-7007	(719) 948-9429	Goodland, KS

Connecticut:	Boston	Albany	New York City
	(508) 823-1900	(518) 435-9568	(631) 924-0037

	Philadelphia (609) 261-6600
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Columbia	(703) 260-0107			
Florida:	Jacksonville	Key West	Melbourne	Miami

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	(904) 741-4370	(305) 295-1316	(407) 255-0212	(305) 229-4522

Tallahassee	Tampa Bay Area	See also: Mobile, AL
(850) 942-8833	(813) 645-2323	

Georgia: Atlanta See also: Greenville, Charleston and Columbia, SC;

(770) 486-1333 Jacksonville and Tallahassee, FL

Guam: Tiyan

District of:

Sterling, VA

(671) 472-7423

Hawaii: Honolulu

(808) 973-5275

Idaho: Boise Pocatello See also: Spokane, WA; Missoula, MT;

(208) 233-0834 Salt Lake City, UT; Riverton, WY (208) 334-9860

Illinois: Chicago Lincoln See also: Davenport, IA; Paducah, KY;

> (815) 834-0600 (217) 732-4029 St. Louis, MO

Indiana: Northern Indiana See also: Chicago, IL; Cincinnati, OH; Indianapolis

> (317) 856-0361 (219) 834-1104 Louisville and Paducah, KY

Iowa: Des Moines **Quad Cities** See also: Sioux Falls, SD; LaCrosse, WI;

> (319) 391-6729 (515) 270-4501 Omaha, NE

Kansas: **Dodge City** Goodland Topeka Wichita

> (316) 227-7140 (785) 899-7119 (785) 232-1493 (316) 942-8483

See also: Hastings, NE; Kansas City and Springfield, MO

Kentucky: Jackson Louisville Paducah

(606) 666-4856 (502) 969-8842 (270) 744-6440

See also: Cincinati, OH; Charleston, WV

Louisiana: Lake Charles New Orleans Shreveport See also: Jackson, MS

(504) 522-7330 (318) 477-5285 (318) 631-3669

Maine: Caribou Portland

(207) 496-8931 (207) 688-3216

Maryland: Sterling, VA Philadelphia Pittsburgh Wakefield, Va

> (703) 260-0107 (609) 261-6600 (412) 262-1591 (757) 899-4200

Massachusetts: Boston Albany

> (508) 823-1900 (518) 435-9568

Michigan: **Grand Rapids** Detroit Gaylord Marquette

(248) 625-3309 (989) 731-3384 (616) 956-5922 (906) 475-5782

See also: Northern Indiana, IN

Minnesota: Duluth **Grand Forks** Minneapolis

(218) 729-0651 (701) 772-0720 (952) 361-6670

See also: Grand Forks, ND; Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, SD; LaCrosse, WI

Mississippi: See Also: Memphis, TN: Mobile, AL; New Orleans, LA Jackson

(601) 936-2189

Missouri: Kansas City Springfield St. Louis

(816) 540-5147 (417) 863-1456 (636) 447-1876

See also: Davenport, IA; Paducah, KY; Memphis, TN

Montana: Great Falls Billings Missoula Glasgow (406) 652-0851 (406) 329-4

(406) 453-2081 (406) 228-2850

See also: Riverton, WY;

Nebraska: North Platte Hastings Omaha

(402) 462-2127 (308) 532-4936 (402) 359-2394

See also: Sioux Falls, SD; Goodland, KS; Cheyenne, WY

Nevada: Elko Las Vegas Reno

> (702) 263-9744 (775) 738-3018 (775) 673-8107

New Hampshire: Boston Portland

> (508) 823-1900 (207) 688-3216

New Jersey: Philadelphia New York City

(609) 261-6600 (631) 924-0037

New Mexico: Albuquerque See Also: El Paso and Midland, TX

(505) 243-0702

New York: Albany Binghamton Buffalo New York City

(518) 435-9568 (607) 770-9531 (631) 924-0037 (716) 565-0204

See also: Burlington, VT

North Carolina: Morehead City Wilmington Raleigh

> (910) 762-4289 (919) 223-5122 (919) 515-8209

See also: Roanoke and Wakefield, VA; Knoxville, TN; Greenville, SC

North Dakota: Bismarck Grand Forks, ND

(701) 250-4224 (701) 772-0720

Ohio: Cleveland Willmington See also: Northern Indiana, Pittsburgh, PA

> (937) 383-0031 (216) 265-2370 Charleston, WV

See also: Shreveport, LA; Amarillo, TX Oklahoma: Oklahoma City Tulsa

(405) 366-6583 (918) 832-4115

Oregon: Portland Pendleton Medford See also: (503) 261-9247 Boise, ID

(541) 276-7832 (541) 773-1067

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia Pittsburgh State College

(609) 261-6600 (412) 262-1591 (811) 231-9412

See also: Cleveland, OH; Binghamton, NW

Puerto Rico: Puerto Rico/V.I.

(787) 253-4586

Rhode Island: Boston

(508) 823-1900

South Carolina: Charleston Columbia Greer See also:

(843) 744-3207 (803) 765-5501 (864) 848-1332 Wilmington, NC

South Dakota: Aberdeen Rapid City Sioux falls

(605) 225-5547 (605) 341-9271 (605) 330-4247

Tennessee: Knoxville Memphis Nashville (423) 586-9040 (901) 544-0399 (615) 754-8506

Texas: Amarillo Austin/San Antonio Brownsville Corpus Christi (806) 335-1121 (830) 629-0130 (956) 504-3354 (361) 289-0959

El Paso Dallas/Fort Worth Houston Lubbock

(505) 589-4088 (817) 429-2631 (281) 337-5074 (806) 745-3916

Midland/Odessa San Angelo See also: Lake Charles and Shreveport, LA;

(915) 563-5006 (915) 944-9445 Oklahoma City, OK

Utah: Salt Lake City See also: Grand Junction, CO

(801) 524-5113

Vermont: Burlington See also: Albany, NY

(802) 862-2475

Virginia: Blacksburg Sterling Wakefield

(540) 552-0084 (703) 260-0107 (757) 899-4200

See also: Charleston, WV; Knoxville, TN

Washington: Seattle Spokane See also: Pendleton and Portland, OR

(206) 526-6095 (509) 244-0110

West Virginia: Charleston See also: Pittsburgh, PA; Sterling and Roanoke, VA

(304) 746-0173

Wisconsin: Green Bay La Crosse Milwaukee

(920) 494-5845 (608) 784-8275 (414) 297-3243

See also: Minneapolis and Duluth, MN

Wyoming: Cheyenne Riverton See also: Billings, MT; Rapid City, SD

(307) 772-2468 (307) 857-3898 Salt Lake City, UT

StormReady Web Site Information

National StormReady Homepage: http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/

National Weather Service Homepage: http://www.nws.noaa.gov

U.S. Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov (used to obtain the population of your County or Community. This information is needed to fill out your StormReady application)

StormReady Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between StormReady and FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program?

A: StormReady is a volunteer program which is separate from FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. However, the two programs compliment each other by focusing on communication, mitigation, and community preparedness to save lives.

Q: Is StormReady a grant program?

A: No. There is no grant money associated with being recognized as "StormReady". However, the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) may provide Community Ratings System (CRS) points to StormReady communities, which may be applied toward lowering NFIP flood insurance rates.

Q: Will it cost my community anything?

A: Any investment by the community will depend on current assets. Established Emergency Management programs may incur little additional expense, while others may require more of an investment. There greatest costs involved may be with upgrading a communities reception and dissemination infrastructure to meet established StormReady guidelines.

Q: Is other funding (beside the NWS) available to help us become/improve our StormReady program? (i.e., government/private sector?)

A: There are no direct funds available from the NWS. However, other government and/or private sector partners may work with your community to obtain funds that will help you meet StormReady guidelines.

O: Why is the NWS requiring me to do this?

A: StormReady is a voluntary program, but we think it is worth our investment if we can save lives. The NWS recognizes those communities that are better prepared for weather emergencies.

Q: I saw the StormReady guidelines on the national web site. Why does my local NWS Office have different guidelines?

A: National StormReady guidelines were designed to establish the minimum requirements for the program. However, many areas of the country have very specific weather-related needs which local NWS Offices consider during weather emergency planning with emergency management and community officials. As a result, StormReady allows the creation of Local StormReady Advisory Boards that have the flexibility to create specific by-laws for their area. Local Boards can also modify National StormReady guidelines to meet their specific customer needs.

Q: What constitutes a community?

A: StormReady defines "community" as a group of people within a locality that have common social and economic interests with an infrastructure that supports the communication and education role of the National Weather Service to protect lives and property. References to "community" in this document include cities, towns, universities, Indian Nations, and government and private entities. References to "county" includes parish.

O: OK, I meet the requirements. When do I get my signs?

A: Once you meet the requirements, you are not far from being recognized as a StormReady community. You will receive two signs during your StormReady Presentation Ceremony. However, you will first need to send the application to the NWS. From there it will go to your Local StormReady Advisory Board made up of Emergency Management, the NWS, and other local/state officials. The board will review the application, and set up a site visit to verify the information in the application. If the board determines that you do not completely meet all requirements, they will make suggestions for improvement to help you meet all the necessary guidelines.

Q: How long is my StormReady recognition good for?

A: StormReady recognition is granted for a period of 3 years from the date your local NWS Office, Meteorologist-In-Charge signs your communities official recognition letter.

Q: Where can I post my StormReady signs?

A: Anywhere that you'd like too. Most communities have posted their signs in public buildings such as EOC's, County Courthouses, and Public Libraries, while other recipients have posted the signs on key roads within their community.

Q: I understand that StormReady guidelines may be updated annually. Which set of guidelines will be applied to my application?

A: The guidelines that are in effect at the time you initially applied will be used to evaluate your application.

Q: What are the requirements for re-certification?

A: Subsequent renewals require a community to go through the application process again. This helps to ensure that equipment is in place and updated, contact information is accurate, and allows for improvements to be made to the program using technological advances in communications and warning dissemination. Local NWS Office's will send a letter informing the community of the upcoming renewal date and direct them to current StormReady guidelines and applications.

Q: I've heard of a program called TsunamiReady. Are StormReady and TsunamiReady the same thing?

A: TsunamiReady is a companion program to StormReady that promotes tsunami hazard preparedness as an active collaboration among federal, state, and local emergency management agencies, the public, and the NWS tsunami warning system. The preparedness guidelines of the two programs differ slightly, but both are designed to improve public safety during severe weather and tsunami emergencies.

Q: How to I order more StormReady or TsunamiReady signs?

A: StormReady communities can purchase additional 2x2' signs from the Oklahoma Correction Industries (OCI) at a cost of about \$25 each, plus shipping. When ordering, ask for the "National Weather Service StormReady or TsunamiReady Sign" and specify whether you want StormReady COUNTY signs or StormReady COMMUNITY signs. OCI's phone number is 405-962-7007. Fax: 405-962-7022.

StormReady TsunamiReady

Community Information							
County/City/To	own			Population			
Primary Point	of Co	ntact	Secondary Point of Contact				
Name			Name				
Office			Office				
Title			Title				
Mailing Address			Mailing Address				
City			City				
State; ZIP			State; ZIP				
Phone			Phone				
e-mail			e-mail				
Guideline 1:		Commu	nications				
Location of 24	-Hour	· Warning Point	Location of	f Emergency O _l	perations Co	enter	
Verification Team General Notes:							
Renewal Comments	is:						
				<u>Da</u>	ite:	Initials:	
Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.							

Guideline 2: NWS Information Reception Equipment							
Warning Point # Required # Verif	Verif	EOC # Required # Verif	Verif				
□ NOAA Weather Radio (Required if in range)		□ NOAA Weather Radio (Required if in range)					
□ NOAA Weather Wire (Subscription)		□ NOAA Weather Wire (Subscription)					
□ EMWIN		□ EMWIN					
☐ Law Enforcement Teletype (LETS)		□ Law Enforcement Teletype (LETS)					
☐ Amateur Radio		☐ Amateur Radio					
☐ Pagers* (Warning reception)		□ Pagers* (Warning reception) □					
☐ Television (Local network or cable TV)		☐ Television (Local network or Cable TV)					
☐ Radio (AM/FM) - EAS reception		☐ Radio (AM/FM) - EAS Reception					
□ NAWAS		□ NAWAS					
☐ Internet (Subscription for alerts)		☐ Internet (Subscription for alerts)					
□ Commercial Data Service		□ Commercial Data					
☐ Other*							
□ Other*							
List any additional capabilities on a separate sheet							
*Capabilities needing explanation:							
Verification Team Notes:							
Renewal Comments:							
		<u>Date:</u> <u>Initials:</u>					
Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.							



Guideline 3: Local Weather & Water Monitoring Equipment							
Warning Point # Required # Verif	Verif	EOC # Required # Verif	Verif				
☐ Anemometer (Wind gauge)		☐ Anemometer (Wind gauge)					
☐ Rain Gauge		☐ Rain Gauge					
☐ River Gauge		☐ River Gauge					
☐ Locally owned Radar		☐ Locally owned Radar					
□ Internet Radar Source		□ Internet Radar Source					
☐ Internet Weather Station		☐ Internet Weather Station					
□ TV Radar Source		□ TV Radar Source					
Other*		□ Other*					
Other*		□ Other*					
List any additional	capabil	ities on a separate sheet					
*Capabilities needing explanation:							
Verification Team Notes:							
Renewal Comments:							
<u>Date:</u> <u>Initials:</u>							
Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.							



Guideline 4: Local Warning Dissemination							
Warning Point # Required # Verif	Verif	EOC # Required # Verif	Verif				
☐ Outdoor Warning Siren(s)		☐ Outdoor Warning Siren(s)					
☐ Cable TV Override		☐ Cable TV Override					
☐ Plan for Sirens on Emergency Vehicles		□ Plan for Sirens on Emergency Vehicles □					
□ Local Alert Broadcast System*		☐ Local Alert Broadcast System*					
☐ Local Pager System* (For dissemination)		☐ Local Pager System* (For dissemination)					
☐ Telephone Tree to Critical Facilities		☐ Telephone Tree to Critical Facilities*					
☐ Coordinated Area-Wide Radio Network*		☐ Coordinated Area-Wide Radio Network*					
☐ Local Flood Warning System*		☐ Local Flood Warning System*					
□ Other*		Other*					
□ Other*		□ Other*					
List any additional capabilities on a separate sheet							
*Capabilities needing explanation:							
Verification Team Notes:							
Renewal Comments:							
		<u>Date:</u> <u>Initials:</u>					
Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.							

StormReady TsunamiReady

Local Government-Owned Buildings in Which Public Traffic is Common						
Office	Location or Address	Tone Alert NOAA Weather Radio	Verif	Con	nments	
Warning Point						
EOC						
City Hall						
School Superintendent						
<u>Verification Team Notes:</u>						
Renewal Comments:						
				<u>Date:</u>	Initials:	
Note: Please do not write in sha	ded areas.					



Gι	Guideline 5: Community Preparedness					
		Annual Sa	fety Talks # Required_	# Verif		
	Date	Topic	Location	Spea	ıker	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
		List any additional safety t	alks on a separate sheet			
Community Tsunami Awareness Program						
	Designate/estab	lish tsunami shelter/area in safe zone.				
	Designate tsuna	ımi evacuation areas and evacuation routes	, and install evacuation route sigr	18.		
	Provide written,	locally specific tsunami hazard response ma	aterial to public.			
☐ Encourage schools to implement a tsunami hazard curriculum, practice evacuations, and provide safety material to staff and students.						
Number of annual tsunami awareness campaigns:						
Weather Radio Purchase Program						
Has your community/county developed a program to subsidize the purchase of Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) equipped Weather Radios for its citizens? (Not required) Yes No						
If yes, provide details:						
Other Community Preparedness Activities						
	Date	Activity	Location	Organize	r	
1						
2						
3						
List any additional activities on a separate sheet						
Renewal Comments:						
				<u>Date:</u> <u>Initi</u>	als:	
NIC	Note: Please do not write in shaded areas					

Department of Commerce National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service

StormReady TsunamiReady

Guideline 6: Administrative Tools/Record Kee	ping		Verif	Renewal		
Formal Tsunami Hazard and Hazardous Weather Operations Plan < Procedure for reporting storm/tsunami damage to the local National Yes Yes				□ Yes		
Weather Service Office in real-time < EOC Activation Procedures < Spotter Activation Criteria	□ Y			□ Yes		
Warning Point personnel has authority to activate Warning Sys	tem (written)	es		☐ Yes		
Spotter Roster and Training Record	□Y	es		☐ Yes		
Last Visit by Emergency Manager to NWS Office			Biennial			
Last Visit by NWS Officials to Community			☐ Annual			
Last NWS Spotter Training for Spotters and Dispatchers			Biennial			
Last NWS Spotter Training Hosted/Co-Hosted (For populations	>40,000)		☐ Annual			
Exercises Topic(s):	Date:			<u>Date:</u>		
List any additional descriptions, narratives, or documentation on a separate sheet						
Verification Team Notes:						
Renewal Comments:						
		Date:	<u>Initi</u>	als:		
Signature of Applying Official						
Application Submitted by (print name):						
Office:	<u>Title:</u>					
Signature:	Date:					
NWS Personnel Receiving Application (print name):						
Date Received:						
Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.						

Department of Commerce National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service



Site Verification Team Signatures					
Print Name:					
Office:	Title:				
Signature:	Date:				
Print Name:					
Office:	Title:				
Signature:	Date:				
Print Name:					
Office:	Title:				
Signature:	Date:				
Print Name:					
Office:	<u>Title:</u>				
Signature:	Date:				
Signature in Renewal Year					
Application Submitted by: (print name):					
Office:	<u>Title:</u>				
Signature:	Date:				
NWS Personnel Receiving Application (print name):					
Date Received:					

"Are You Storm Ready?"



